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surface plasmon resonance detector.
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AB Surface plasmon resonance detectors, such as the BIAcore instrument
produced by Pharmacia, show promise for the detection and quantitation of
macromolecular interactions in a label-free mode. Such detectors rely on
the covalent immobilization of one of the interacting species onto the
sensing surface. To date, the only published chemistry for this purpose
is reaction of primary amino-containing ligands with an N-hydroxysuccinimide
(NHS) ester-activated surface. In an effort to increase the versatility
of the BIAcore with respect to immobilizing ligands, we undertook an
investigation of activation chemistries compatible with this system.
Using readily available reagents, we demonstrated that the carboxylated
dextran-coated sensing surface could be easily converted to
functions other than NHS-esters, including amine-activated,
hydrazine-activated, and sulfhydryl-activated surfaces. In addition, use
was made of the streptavidin/biotin interaction to probe chemical
modifications of the sensing surface, by employing specifically modified
biotin derivatives.